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dies? It is true, that we may for ages remain as ignorant of the particular modes in which these several phenomena are produced, as we are of the precise mechanical agency which changes aqueous vapour into hail or snow; yet, on that account, we ought to refer less to the inflammable gases, and to the volatility of decomposed substances, for the sources of various igneous meteors, than to the decompositions of water for the known aqueous meteors of hail and snow. It is, however, not less satisfactory to ascertain generally the natural causes which are appropriate in their nature, and commensurate in their powers with these phenomena. Philosophically speaking, our inquiries ought not to terminate till they have ascertained the precise circumstances which produce each set of appearances; but we know enough to protect us from the vagaries of superstition and fanciful hypotheses, in thus establishing the analogical powers of aqueous and of inflammable gases, to the production of their peculiar sets of aqueous and igneous meteors.

(*Phillips' Monthly Magazine.*)

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#### Gas Lights.

The commencement of the present winter has been distinguished in London by very general preparations for the introduction of gas lights. Nearly the entire line of shops in the main streets, from Shore-ditch church, by St. Paul's to Westminster Abbey, a length of more than three miles, either is provided with pipes and lighted by gas, or is in course of preparation. An accurate experiment which we have made on the street gas light, and the street oil lamps, proves, that one gas lamp gives an intensity of light equal to thirty oil lamps. It is also found, that gas burned in an Argand's lamp, equals two such lamps lighted with oil. In shops, the advantages are a

white light nearly equal to day-light, a warmth which supersedes the use of fires, a total absence of smoke, smell, and vapour, and great economy of labour and expense. It appears, that every lamp consumes twenty gallons of gas an hour; and that half a sack, or an hundred weight of coals, produces 250 hours' consumption of one lamp, or 5 hours of 50 lamps. The coke produced in the distillation, is worth about as much as the coal; and the tar and ammonia equal the collateral expenses; so that the gas costs little, if any thing. Besides the Original Company in Westminster, which also has a station in Worship-street, Messrs. Grant, Knight, and Murdoch, have opened a new establishment in Water-lane, Fleet-street, and a third is projected in Southwark, creating by a rivalry of interests that competition which is sure to accelerate the progress of this great discovery. We learn that the new company have contracts already for 1500 shop lamps, 300 of which will be lighted in November: and the original company have contracts of an equal extent, all at 4*l.* per annum per lamp, or 3*d.* per night. Some private establishments have provided themselves with apparatus for generating their own gas; but it is too large and the process too operose for general introduction in that form; though Mr. Ackermann, in the Strand, has made the gas in his own house for three years past, and considers it a convenience above all price. It may be worth while to state, that a gas light apparatus consists of a retort, in which the coal is distilled; of a water tub with a worm, through which the gas is cooled; of a vessel of lime water, by which it is deprived of all smell; and of a copper gasometer, or cubic receptacle, inverted in water for receiving the stock of gas. It may be used at any distance, to which there are pipes to convey it.

(*Phillips' Monthly Magazine.*)

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